



Truman VA BULLETIN

JANUARY 11, 2008

WELCOME

Randi Beatty, Medical Support Assistant (PS)
Katherine Burnham, Social Work Student (PS)
Anita Conley, Pharmacy Technician (Pharmacy)
Fallon Cunningham, Health Systems Specialist (DIR)
Eric Curnutte, Occupational Therapy Student (CS)
William Fitzgerald, Food Service Worker (BUS)
Ted Forester, General Engineer (FM)
Tina Fountain, Medical Support Assistant (PC)
Katherine Gee, Health Systems Specialist (DIR)
Brenda Hackett, Student Nurse Technician (PS)
Kayla Ivey, Recreation Therapy Aid (PS)
Shelley Jameson, Social Work Student (PS)
Stacy Jefferson, RN (PS)
Brandy Knehans, Nursing Assistant (PS)
Kelly Lopez, Graduate Nurse Technician (PS)
Judith Marsden, Human Resources Specialist (HR)
Dana Meuret, Diagnostic Radiology Technologist (CS)
Michael Perkins, Pharmacy Aid (Pharmacy)
Valentina Rosco, RN (PS)
Karen Stemmons, RN (PS)
Jennifer Taylor, Audiologist (SC)
Cynthia Thoenen, RN (PS)
Karen Willingham, LPN (PS)
Brenda Zumwalt, Security Assistant (Police)

FAREWELL

Robert Couchman, RN (PS)
Leah Drennan, Student Nurse Technician (PS)
Beth Harris, Physical Therapy Student (CS)
Lindsay Kraus, Physical Therapy Student (CS)
David Leps, RN (PS)
Michael Perry, Housekeeping Aid (FM)
Elva Wicker, Diagnostic Radiology Technologist (CS)

NEW SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

James Peake, MD, was nominated by President Bush to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs on Oct. 30 and was unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate on Dec. 14. The St. Louis, Missouri native was sworn into office on Dec. 20. Dr. Peake received his bachelor's degree from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1966. Following service in Vietnam with the 101st Airborne Division, where he was awarded the Silver Star, a Bronze Star with "V" device and the Purple Heart with oak leaf cluster, he entered medical school at New York's Cornell University. Peake earned his medical degree in 1972 and began his Army medical career,

which culminated in his 2004 retirement. In the interim, he served as a cardiac surgeon and commander in several medical posts. From 2000 to 2004, he served as the U.S. Army Surgeon General.

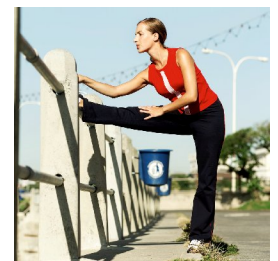
VA PRODUCES EXERCISE DVD FOR VETERANS



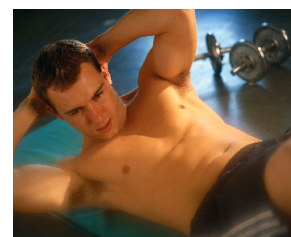
The Department of Veterans Affairs has released a 1-hour and 40-minute exercise DVD featuring a step-by-step workout to help veterans become more physically active and healthier. More than 100,000 copies of the "HealthierUS Veterans" fitness

DVD and an accompanying booklet highlighting how to exercise properly have been distributed to veterans nationwide through VA medical facilities. The DVD features an introduction by nationally recognized health and fitness expert Denise Austin along with exercise tips, myths and facts, and chapter introductions presented by Heather French Henry, Miss America 2000.

The DVD features chapters led by a fitness instructor and VA clinician in a series of activities, demonstrating exercises to help veterans and their families to become more active. Movements are presented at different levels – beginner, intermediate and advanced. Key segments include



warm-up, aerobics workout and cool down periods, each lasting up to 10 minutes. Interspersed between the segments are tips, myths and facts presented by Henry, whose father was a disabled veteran. The DVD concludes with the stories of several veterans who have



improved their health, increased their stamina and are managing their weight after taking part in the VA program called *MOVE! (Managing Overweight Veterans Everywhere!)* Copies of the DVD can be obtained at

VA medical facilities from MOVE coordinators and points of contact for HealthierUS Veterans.

JANUARY SERVICE PIN RECIPIENTS

30-Years

Elton L. D. Lamberson (SC)

Susan K. Malan, RN (PC)

Jacqueline S. Turner (BH)

25-Years

Barbara R. Owen, RN (PI)

Robert A. Rucker (BH)

20-Years

Winona M. Coleman-Broadus, RN (PC)

Renda L. Hill, RN (PS)

Karen L. Kanuckel (CS)

15-Years

Darren R. Grayson (FM)

10-Years

Renee S. Claypool (Canteen)

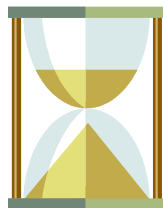
Bonnie J. Giles, RN (PS)

Laura E. Jacobs (SC)

5-Years

Steven T. Hudson (Police)

Marsha A. Robuck (SC)



VA'S HEALTH CARE SUCCESSES CITED IN NATIONAL JOURNAL

The December issue of *The American Journal of Public Health* includes an editorial and articles commending the VA health care system, saying that VA has emerged as a national health care leader. An editorial headlined, "The Veterans Health Administration: A Domestic Model for a National Health Care System," states that the VA system has several unique aspects that distinguish it from the private sector health care system:



- a centralized health care administration;
- an emphasis on preventive (primary) care as the foundation for the system;
- an automated health information system that includes a national electronic patient record system; and
- an affordable, evidence-based medication prescription plan.

A separate article in the same issue praises VA leadership, saying changes made in the 1990s such as instituting a nationwide electronic health record and accompanying quality measurement approach led to the transformation of VA to become a national leader. The article, "Designing a Model Health Care System," also cites several academic studies that show that VA care

outperforms non-VA care on various areas and that patient satisfaction appears to be higher within the VA than among those that receive care in the private sector.

DR. KING'S LEGACY

This month, VA joins the nation is observing the birth, life and dreams of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It is a time to remember our country's commitment to the principles of freedom and equality for all people, to peace through justice and to brotherhood. We are in a unique position to keep Dr. King's message alive. Veterans and their families are the top priority at VA and the people that serve them are our most valuable resources. Therefore, when we mirror the diversity of America's veterans, we are better able to understand their needs and serve them well.



TRUMAN VA CHOIR MESSAGE

The members of the VA Choir would like to thank the Director and all employees for their continued support in 2007. We are looking forward to serving our veterans and co-workers in the coming year through the gift of music as a way of healing our nation. The VA Choir extends an invitation to anyone that would like to join the choir – in voice or instrument. We practice on Thursdays at 12:00 noon. Happy New Year to all!

VA ASSOCIATE DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY FOR HEALTH FOR QUALITY AND SAFETY

William E. Duncan, MD, PhD was appointed in December to the new position of VA Associate Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Quality and Safety (ADUSHQS). He is responsible for coordinating VHA efforts to 1) integrate existing quality, performance, safety and administrative information; 2) identify key metrics to drive transformational change; 3) identify gaps and develop new data requirements and approaches to addressing these gaps; and 4) plan and organize, in coordination with senior leadership, initiatives to improve quality and safety.

PRIMARY CARE NOTES

The White Team held its holiday party at a local restaurant on Dec. 15. They conducted a "white elephant" auction and raised \$1,046.50 for the Central Missouri Food Bank.

ENJOY YOUR FREEDOM? THANK A VETERAN!